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HOUSE OF LORDS

From Lord Avebury

1987 March 6

Dear Mr Eda,

Many thanks for your letter of February 13, and for all you are doing on behalf of the people of East Timor. I do indeed recall our meeting at the United Nations, and I was glad to hear that you are campaigning so actively in Japan.

I will ask our Secretary, Jane Cooper, to send you a copy of the speech I made recently in a debate we had on arms sales and human rights, in which I dealt with the case of East Timor. We are shortly publishing a new study on the legal aspects of Indonesia's continued occupation of the territory, and I will ensure that you are sent a copy. With regard to the four students who are being prevented from leaving Indonesia for asylum in Portugal, I telexed the Dutch Foreign Minister last Monday suggesting that his country grant them one-trip travel documents, so as to overcome the Indonesian objection that if they left the country on Portuguese documentation, it would mean that Indonesia tacitly accepted Portuguese claims to continuing sovereignty.

I will also ask Carmel Budiardjo, who publishes the journal TAPOL containing much useful information about East Timor, if she would put you on her mailing list. Her organisation is very hard up, and if when you see the journal, your party think they are doing a useful job, perhaps they might consider making her a donation.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Lord Avebury

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